

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. In May 1955, there were approximately 50,000 unemployed persons in P'yongyang.¹ Most of these people were homeless and desolate who flocked to the railroad stations for shelter. During the winter months about 500 people were observed sleeping on heaps of straw and rags in the P'yongyang railroad station, about 300 people were observed in the West P'yongyang railroad station, and about 50 people were observed in the Taedong railroad station.²
2. The police forbade loitering in railroad stations, but as of May 1955 the practice continued. Most of the people displayed little fear of the police; they considered themselves victims of inadequate governmental policies. Sometimes people broke windows to protest against police disciplinary action. When people were brought to police stations, arguments with policemen developed about the broken promises of the North Korean government that claimed to be in favor of aiding the people, the farmers, the laborers, and the destitute.
3. About 30% of these people were war orphans under 18 years of age; the remainder was made up of unemployed adults who had been driven out of their homes and jobs in Hamgyong Pukto because of the failure of governmental economic policies in that area.

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1. ☐ Comment. This is a rough estimate.

2. ☐ ☐ Comment. ☐ describes population problems in P'yongyang during February and March 1955.

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